

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>	25X1A
SUBJECT	Plans to Improve Living Standards	DATE DISTR.	7 December 1953	
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- On 3 December 1953 some 30 representatives of the Ministries of Labor and Health, the Executive Committee of the FDGB, and various large plants assembled in the "Haus der Regierung" in East Berlin to discuss a draft containing twenty proposals for the improvement of the living standards of the populace of East Germany. Among those present were Jenny Matern, Herbert Warnke, Rudi Kirchner, and Gerhard Ziller.
- The proposals included the following: to increase pensions, to raise salaries for the wage groups V to VIII, to improve the medical care of the population, to cut food prices further, and to eliminate rationing. The comments made by the principal government spokesmen indicated that at least the last two of these proposals are likely to be accepted and promulgated. The proposals which are accepted are to be made public with appropriate fanfare at a special session of the Council of Ministers to be held in the hall of the Volkskammer on 10 December, to which six or seven hundred spectators will be invited. The Volkskammer will ratify the proposals on 16 December.
- Warnke stated that there is danger in making a few specific concessions, since the "opposition" would emphasize the shortcomings which still remain, thus nullifying the propaganda value of the concessions and keeping the East German government on the defensive.

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